IN THE CLAIMS

1-32. (Canceled).

33.   (New) A computer implemented method for re-ranking a set of ranked documents, each ranked document having an absolute ranking value determined based on one or more search terms, the method comprising:

retrieving a plurality of context information based on said one or more search

terms from each of said set of ranked documents;

presenting said plurality of context information together with a set of associated

ranking criteria to a user, said set of associated ranking criteria being based

on discrete ranking levels;

receiving user preferences regarding each of said ranking criteria associated with

each of said plurality of context information; and

re-ranking said set of ranked documents based on a new ranking value calculated

for each of said ranked documents utilizing a context ranking formula

based on said absolute ranking value and said user preferences regarding

each of said associated ranking criteria.

34.   (New) The computer implemented method of Claim 33, wherein retrieving a plurality of context information comprises one or more of extracting lexical affinities, extracting features, and extracting word frequency statistics from said set of ranked documents.

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35.   (New) The computer implemented method of Claim 33, wherein user preferences of said associated ranking criteria are based on a weighting function.

36.   (New) The computer implemented method of Claim 33, wherein said context ranking formula utilizes the following ranking and weighted ranking equations:

ranking equation -

$fd(x1, ..., xn) = Rd$ if $x1, ..., xn$ are elements of Td, and

$fd(x1, ..., xn) = 0$ if $x1, ..., xn$ are not elements of Td,

wherein Rd is the absolute ranking value of a document "d" that results from a
search, and $Td = (x1, ..., xn)$ is a tuple of context terms that are contained
in the document "d";

weighted ranking equation –

$[2a\ f(x1,...,xa) + (a+b)\ f(x1,...,xa+b) + (a+b+c)\ f(x1,...,xa+b+c)] / (4a+2b+c)$

wherein the weighted ranking equation calculates the relevance of a document
with respect to the context terms $x1, ..., xm$ when a, b and c are the
number of terms that have been assigned a high (a), medium (b) and low
(c) relevance and $f(x1, ..., xa)$, $f(x1, ..., xa+b)$ and $f(x1, ..., xa+b+c)$ are
partial relevance functions of the document with respect to a subset of the
context terms.

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37.   (New) A computer program product comprising a computer useable medium
having a computer readable program for re-ranking a set of ranked documents, each
ranked document having an absolute ranking value determined based on one or more
search terms, said computer readable program when executed on a computer causes the
computer to:

>   retrieve a plurality of context information based on said one or more search terms
>   from each of said set of ranked documents;
>
>   present said plurality of context information together with a set of associated
>   ranking criteria to a user, said set of associated ranking criteria being based
>   on discrete ranking levels;
>
>   receive user preferences regarding each of said ranking criteria associated with
>   each of said plurality of context information; and
>
>   re-rank said set of ranked documents based on a new ranking value calculated for
>   each of said ranked documents utilizing a context ranking formula based
>   on said absolute ranking value and said user preferences regarding each of
>   said associated ranking criteria.

38.   (New) The computer program product of Claim 37, wherein an operation to
retrieve a plurality of context information comprises one or more of extracting lexical
affinities, extracting features, and extracting word frequency statistics from said set of
ranked documents.

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39.   (New) The computer program product of Claim 37, wherein user preferences of said associated ranking criteria are based on a weighting function.

40.   (New) The computer program product of Claim 37, wherein said context ranking formula utilizes the following ranking and weighted ranking equations:

ranking equation -

$fd(x1, ..., xn) = Rd$ if $x1, ..., xn$ are elements of Td, and

$fd(x1, ..., xn) = 0$ if $x1, ..., xn$ are not elements of Td,

wherein Rd is the absolute ranking value of a document "d" that results from a
search, and $Td = (x1, ..., xn)$ is a tuple of context terms that are contained
in the document "d";

weighted ranking equation –

$$[2a\, f(x1,...,xa) + (a+b)\, f(x1,...,xa+b) + (a+b+c)\, f(x1,...,xa+b+c)] / (4a+2b+c)$$

wherein the weighted ranking equation calculates the relevance of a document
with respect to the context terms $x1, ..., xm$ when a, b and c are the
number of terms that have been assigned a high (a), medium (b) and low
(c) relevance and $f(x1, ..., xa)$, $f(x1, ..., xa+b)$ and $f(x1, ..., xa+b+c)$ are
partial relevance functions of the document with respect to a subset of the
context terms.

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41.   (New) An apparatus for re-ranking a set of ranked documents, each ranked document having an absolute ranking value determined based on one or more search terms, the apparatus comprising, a search engine which:

retrieves a plurality of context information based on said one or more search terms from each of said set of ranked documents;

presents said plurality of context information together with a set of associated ranking criteria to a user, said set of associated ranking criteria being based on discrete ranking levels;

receives user preferences regarding each of said ranking criteria associated with each of said plurality of context information; and

re-ranks said set of ranked documents based on a new ranking value calculated for each of said ranked documents utilizing a context ranking formula based on said absolute ranking value and said user preferences regarding each of said associated ranking criteria.

42.   (New) The apparatus of Claim 41, wherein the retrieve module is configured to perform operations to retrieve a plurality of context information, the operations comprising one or more of extracting lexical affinities, extracting features, and extracting word frequency statistics from said set of ranked documents.

43.   (New) The apparatus of Claim 41, wherein user preferences of said associated ranking criteria are based on a weighting function.

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44.   (New) The apparatus of Claim 41, wherein said context ranking formula utilizes the following ranking and weighted ranking equations:

ranking equation -

$fd(x1, ..., xn) = Rd$ if $x1, ..., xn$ are elements of Td, and

$fd(x1, ..., xn) = 0$ if $x1, ..., xn$ are not elements of Td,

wherein Rd is the absolute ranking value of a document "d" that results from a

search, and $Td = (x1, ..., xn)$ is a tuple of context terms that are contained

in the document "d";

weighted ranking equation –

$$[2a\ f(x1,...,xa) + (a+b)\ f(x1,...,xa+b) + (a+b+c)\ f(x1,...,xa+b+c)] / (4a+2b+c)$$

wherein the weighted ranking equation calculates the relevance of a document

with respect to the context terms $x1, ..., xm$ when a, b and c are the

number of terms that have been assigned a high (a), medium (b) and low

(c) relevance and $f(x1, ..., xa)$, $f(x1, ..., xa+b)$ and $f(x1, ..., xa+b+c)$ are

partial relevance functions of the document with respect to a subset of the

context terms.

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